REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks and arguments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-49 are currently pending in this application. By the foregoing amendment, independent Claims 1 and 15 have been revised, and a minor typographical error in Claim 39 has been corrected. Accordingly, Claims 1-49 remain in this application for consideration and allowance. Claims 1-49 currently stand rejected on the following grounds which are respectfully traversed for reasons subsequently set forth herein.

1. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-22, 24, 25, 27-37 and 39-48 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,847,716 to Dorsch; and

2. Claims 9, 12, 23, 26, 38 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorsch.

Via independent Claims 1 and 15, each of applicant's Claims 1-27 specifies, *inter alia*, a **tank** having a **wound filament structure** extending externally around and reinforcing the tank **in a circumscribing relationship therewith**, and at least one **single layer, open weave** reinforcing patch disposed between the tank and the outer surface of the wound filament structure.

The flexible outer wall of the Dorsch liquid container is not a **wound filament structure** which, as commonly understood in the reinforced tank construction art, is formed by winding at least one elongated **filament** member repeatedly around the exterior of the tank to form a built-up filament wall outwardly circumscribing and reinforcing the underlying tank. Instead, the main body portion of the Dorsch liquid container is formed from three plies 11 of rubberized **fabric** positioned

around a cardboard form 12 which is disintegrated and removed after vulcanization of the rubberized fabric plies. Accordingly, Dorsch does not disclose or suggest applicant's claimed **wound filament structure**, and does not disclose or suggest a separate **tank** structure circumscribed by a wound filament structure. Indeed, Dorsch teaches directly away from the use of a separate tank structure and a wound filament structure.

It is noted that the Dorsch doily 1 has, in its sealed interior, a spirally wound glass fiber cord 3. However, this wound cord clearly does not constitute a wound filament structure which circumscribes a tank as required in each of applicant's Claims 1-27.

Similarly, Dorsch neither discloses nor suggests the use of a **single layer, open weave** reinforcing patch as required by applicant's Claims 1-27. In this regard it should be specifically noted that Dorsch neither discloses nor suggests that any of the reinforcing fabric plies 13,14 are of either of a single layer or open weave construction, and the illustrated reinforcing doily 1 is clearly of a **multiple layer, sealed** construction.

Relative to the reinforcing fabric plies 13 and 14, Dorsch is silent as to whether they are of a single layer construction, and teaches **directly away from** incorporating therein applicant's claimed **open weave** construction. Specifically, it is stated in Dorsch that the reinforcing fabric plies 13,14 are formed from the **same** woven fabric used to form the main wall plies 11. Accordingly, if the reinforcing plies 13,14 were of an open weave construction, then the main wall plies would be of an open weave construction as well. This would render the Dorsch liquid container unuseable for its liquid containment purpose - liquid within the fabric wall structure 11,13,14 would simply leak outwardly through the weave openings thereof.

Since, as discussed above, the Dorsch reference neither discloses nor suggests either (1) a separate tank circumscribed by a wound filament structure, or (2) a single layer, open weave reinforcing patch, and indeed teaches directly away from these claim limitations, it is respectfully submitted that none of applicant's Claims 1-27 is anticipated or rendered obvious by U.S. Patent 3,847,716 to Dorsch.

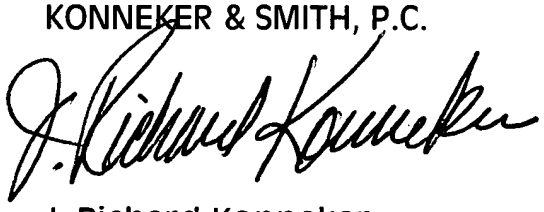
Via independent Claims 28 and 39, each of applicant's Claims 28-49 specifies, *inter alia*, tank apparatus having a **filament-based wall structure**, and a **single layer, open weave** reinforcing patch secured to the wall structure. As discussed above, the Dorsch reference fails to disclose or suggest either a filament-based wall structure, or a single layer, open weave reinforcing patch, and instead teaches directly away from these claim limitations. It is thus respectfully submitted that none of applicant's Claims 28-49 is anticipated or rendered obvious by U.S. Patent 3,847,716 to Dorsch.

In view of the foregoing amendment, remarks and arguments, all of the claims currently pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-49 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at 972/516-0030 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on October 4, 2004

Diane Sutton